

U.S. Department *of* Commerce

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National Oceanic *and* Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service



OFFICE *of* RESPONSE *and* RESTORATION

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Observations and Documentation Case Study

Richard R. Wingrove

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Office of Response and Restoration

(216) 522-7760

richard.r.wingrove@noaa.gov

Visual Observation Photo Documentation

Basic

Inexpensive

Simple Equipment needs

Follow-Up Study on Oiled Vegetation Cutting Along the Delaware River

Edwin Levin

Jay Pickney

Todd Montello

The Spill

- Vessel -----> T/V Canadian Liberty
- Location-----> Fort Mifflin, PA (Sun Refinery)
- Product-----> Heavy Venezuelan Crude Oil
- Quantity -----> ~50 barrels (~2,100 gallons)
- Cause -----> Overfilled tanks
- Impacts -----> 12 kilometers (8 miles) NJ shoreline

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- Year long study
- Monitored the recovery

Establish Monitoring Sites

- Unoiled
- Oiled cut
- Oiled uncut

Establish Survey Period

- Minimum time to show change
- Water height
- Growing season

Determine Transects

- Start and end points
- Length
- Repeatable

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Topographic Profile

- Changes thru erosion
- Document water level

Oil Measurements

- Correlate oil levels to impacts
- Standard and consistent descriptions

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Document Response

- Where
- How
- Results

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Vegetation

- Type
- Condition
- Density

1997 Vermillion Parish Burn



Sediment

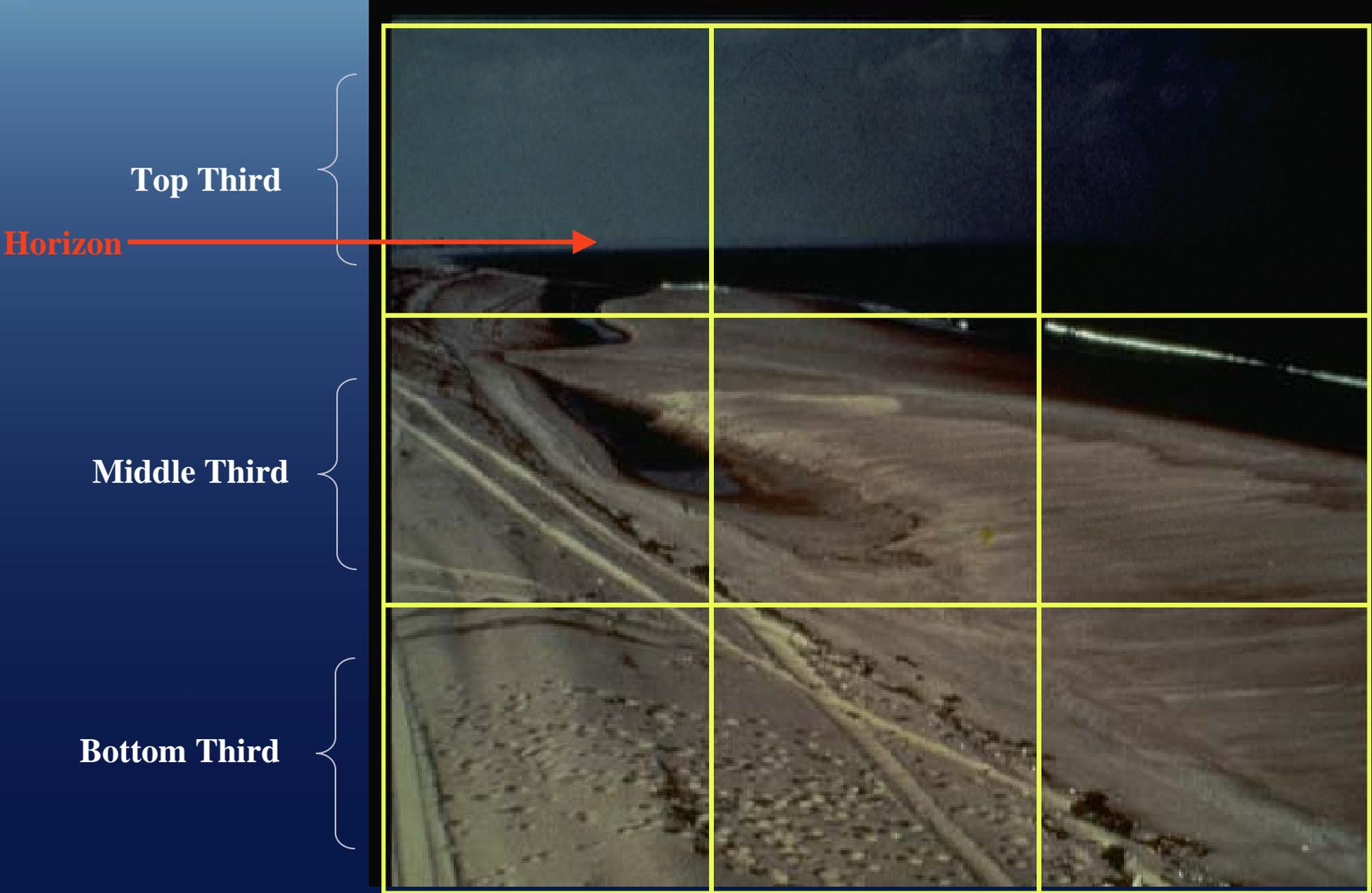
- Type
- Grain size

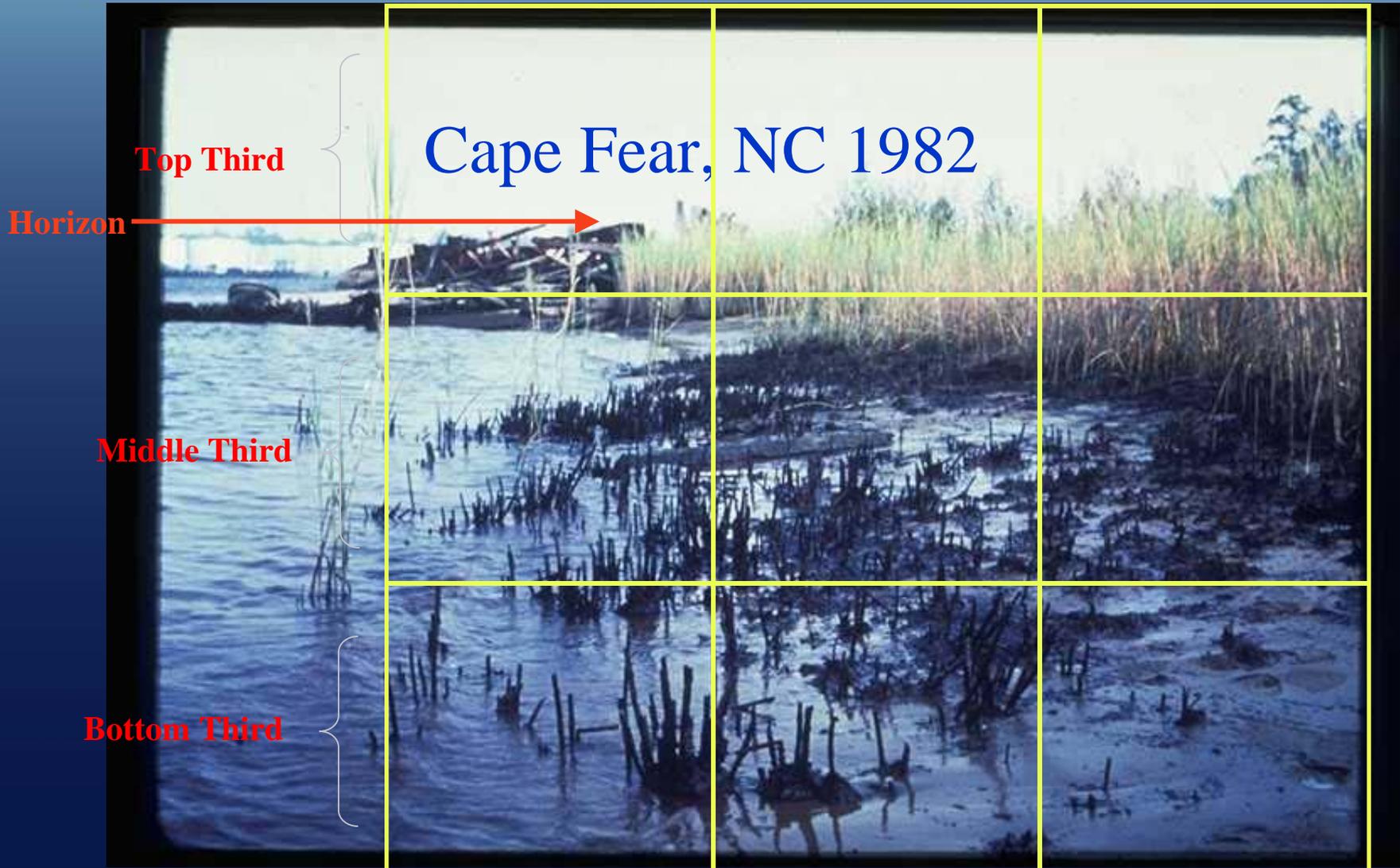
Photographic Documentation

- Repeatable
- Correct Technique

Composition

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Cape Fear, NC 1982



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Cape Fear, NC 1984



Where to put the Photo Scale



Where to put the Photo Scale

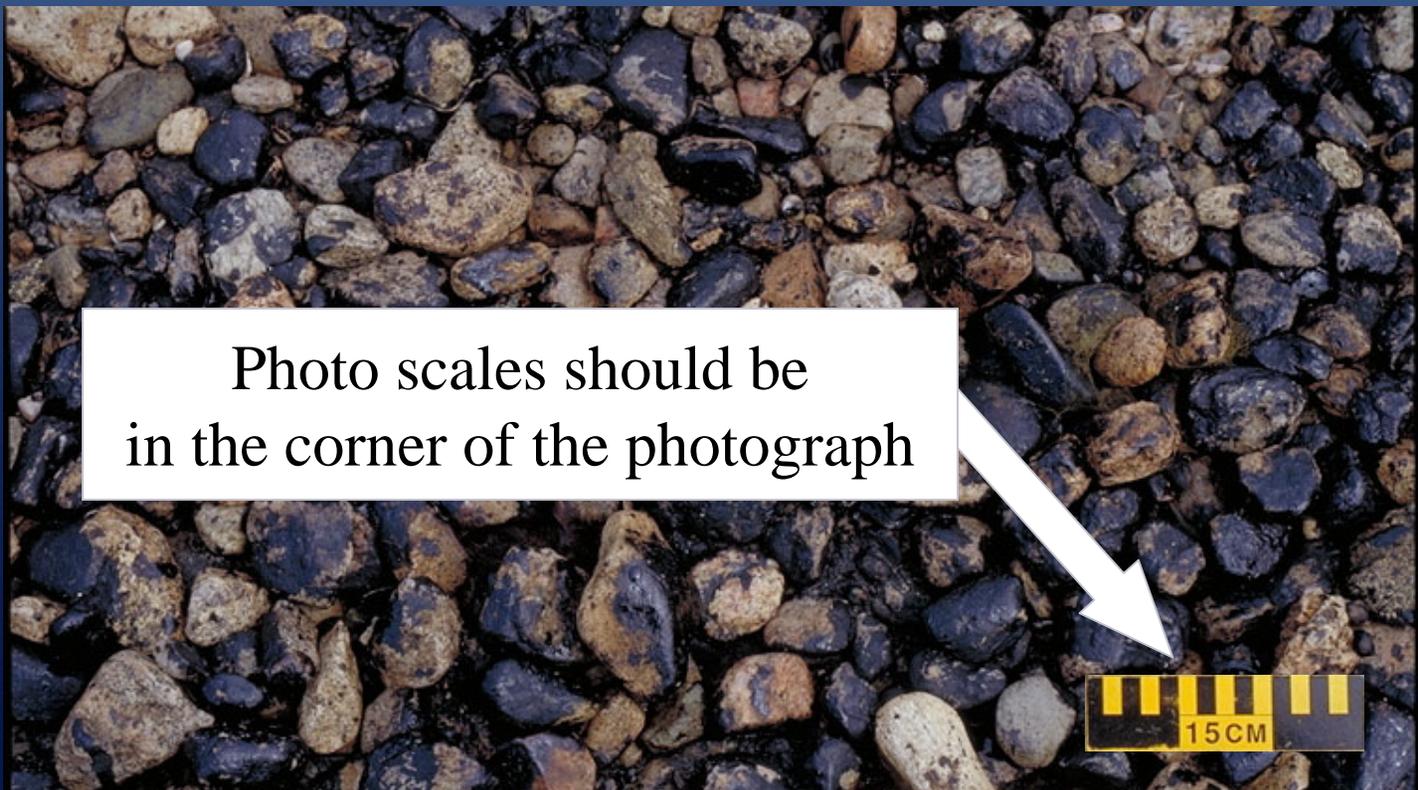


Photo Scale Exceptions...

- Larger scale photographs
- Measurement of specific feature



Misleading Photographs

Label your photographs clearly



Field Bag Equipment



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QUESTIONS



NOAA website: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>